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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 30 | Min 13 | Humidity 43% Clear with periodic clouds Sensex 59,463 | Nifty 17,465 | Gold 55,416 | Silver 63,450 | Dollar 82.93 | Euro 87.67 | GBP 99.07

GET, SET, TOLL

Taking Mysuru Road?

PAGE 4

FLEXITARIANS

Too many warnings ignored

PAGE 6

Mounds of dry leaves abandoned in different pockets of city set on fire — in some cases pourakarmikas themselves burn leaf litter

ALL THE LEAVES ARE BROWN...

'Medicine strips, tobacco products, plastic being burnt daily'

| Melvin Mathew
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Summer is closing in. And as usual, illegal leaf burning has begun. As is the case always, as summer approaches, BBMP struggles to dispose of excessive dry leaves at the processing plant. Residents across Bengaluru find huge piles of dry leaves swept in corners of the road.

Often these mounds are set on fire by miscreants; sometimes pourakarmikas (PKs) themselves contribute to the air pollution from burning the dry leaves.

"These days a few PKs in Banaswadi are regularly seen burning dry leaves and other garbage causing serious breathing issues for residents. It is the season of falling leaves. We have hardly seen BBMP vehicles moving around the area to collect the dry leaves, unfortunately,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

"Waste is being swept up and burnt on every road. The roads have dark soot spots on them

– A Babu, resident, Uttarahalli

Green caution

Order to clear illegal constructions on Bellandur Lake not implemented: NGT principal bench

| Y Maheswara Reddy
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Principal Bench of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) expressed displeasure over the non-implementation of its 2016 order by Bengaluru Development Authority (BDA), Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB), and the State Level Environmental Impact Assessment Authority.

The NGT on May 4, 2016 barred constructions on Bellandur Lake wetlands.

Hearing the petition filed by Citizen Action Forum and Bangalore Forward Foundation, the Principal Bench of the NGT issued a notice to the BDA, KSPCB and State Level Environmental Impact Assessment Authority to report on the status of the action taken to comply with the judgment and, if no action had been taken, to explain why that was the case.

The green body has also issued a show cause notice to Mantri Techzone Pvt Ltd and Core Mind Software and Services Pvt Ltd as to why criminal prosecution under Section 26 of the NGT Act should not be initiated against them for non-compliance with the directions contained in the judgment.

The Principal Bench stated that an

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Melody notes

Jagriti presents Morning Raag, an Indian classical music concert series on coming Sunday. The concert is the first for this year and will feature a vocal solo by Amrutha Venkatesh. The show will present an exclusive electric mix of Raagas.
Where: Lumbini, Jagriti Theatre
When: Sunday, March 5; 7:30 am

02 Jazz it up

With the idea to help people explore new music, Focus Group Radio is now coming to Bengaluru. At one of the most happening restaurants in the city, the group plans to delve into African music by starting with old jazz and some of the funk records from Ghana, Ethiopia, Cameroon, Nigeria and Senegal.
Where: Indiranagar Social
When: March 4; 8pm onwards

03 Take your seats

Grab your seats this Tuesday at Ranga Shankara to watch a play penned by Habib Tanveer. The play is based on a thief named Charandas who is originally a sympathetic person. Enjoy some of the paradoxes and challenges that the play tries to bring out in a humorous way.
Where: Ranga Shankara
When: February 28; 7:30 pm

'Deceased student wasn't part of hunger strike'

Death on campus: APU issues statement, assures support to victim's family; students say university attempting to 'depoliticise' issue

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FILE PHOTO

Students holding protest against the university for imposing fee for shuttle bus services

After the death of a student from Azim Premji University (APU), the university has issued a statement claiming that the incident occurred while the students were participating in a college open-fest and the student had a cardiac arrest.

However, the students of the university have a different take on the situation. The students have alleged that 26-year-old Abhijit Shinde, a first-year MA Development student at APU had died after taking part in a hunger strike as part of the ongoing protests in the university. Students say that the university is attempting to depoliticise the event by changing the facts about the death of the student.

The university has denied the allegations by the students.

"We are shocked and deeply saddened by the unfortunate demise of a student at the University campus. The student, while participating in the opening event of the annual student festival, collapsed, and despite immediate medical help could not be saved. Our hearts go out to his family and friends who knew and loved him. We are doing everything possible to support his immediate family at this time of grief," said a spokesperson from APU.

> **"The student, while participating in the opening event of the annual festival, collapsed and despite immediate medical help could not be saved**
> –a spokesperson from APU

The incident took place on Friday, February 24, when he was dancing with other students at the inaugural event of the student festival, the university informed.

The victim was not on hunger strike on February 23 or 24, the day that this unfortunate event occurred. However, he was involved in the protest by students on the campus, on a one-day hunger strike on Wednesday, February 22, the university added.

On a separate note, the university said that all the students are provided with life insurance, free of cost, by the university and added that they will be working closely with the victim's family to expedite the process of claiming the insurance.

Some students have claimed that the victim had been on a hunger strike for more than 24 hours as part of an ongoing protest against the university imposing a fee for shuttle bus services on the students.

As Bangalore Mirror had reported earlier, the students started a hunger strike on Tuesday, February 21, after more than a week of continuous protest against the university.

On the other hand, while the university had agreed to allow a fee waiver for the shuttle bus fee for some selected students on a need basis, it has also added that disciplinary measures will be taken against those for engaging in intimidatory behavior against the management.

Reportedly, an autopsy has been conducted on Saturday.

NGT pulls up 'lake encroachers'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

order was issued to clear the illegal constructions on wetlands of Bellandur Lake but the order was not implemented. It has also expressed disappointment over the failure to collect the penalty imposed on two firms for violation of the norms.

The NGT, in its May 4, 2016 order, stated that construction of buildings, multi-level car parking facilities, and commercial complexes would have an adverse impact on the environment. It has fixed the buffer zone of 75 m (metre) for waterbodies, 50 m for primary storm water drains, 35 m for secondary storm water drains and 25 m for tertiary storm water drains.

The NGT also imposed a penalty of Rs 117 crore on Mantri Techzone and Rs 13.50 crore on another tech company for violation of buffer zone norms.

Meanwhile, Karnataka state government and real estate companies approached the Supreme Court against the NGT order on extending the buffer zones of waterbodies and storm water drains.

The state government stated that the NGT order is against the Revised Master Plan 2015 for Bengaluru and more than 90 percent of the buildings have to be demolished if the NGT order on extending the buffer zone is implemented. The state government had also stated that the NGT's directions were against the Karnataka Industrial Area Development Act, Planning Act and Karnataka Municipal Corporations Act, 1976. It stated the buffer zone was fixed as 30 m.

The Supreme Court set aside the NGT order on March 6, 2019. The apex court also dismissed the petition of Mantri Techzone against the judgment that upheld the Rs 117 crore penalties on it.

Meanwhile, Nitin Seshadri of Citizens' Action Forum said the state government has to take measures to implement the NGT order. "We have approached the authorities seeking the implementation of the NGT order to clear the illegal constructions on the buffer zone," said Seshadri.

Nagesh Aras, core member, Friends of Lakes, said the state government has not taken any action in other lake encroachment cases, either. "All government agencies have simply ignored the contempt of court notices. For example, the state government has taken no action on the NK Patil report, which was released 12 years ago. The Karnataka High Court ordered the government to restore all lakes in Bengaluru. But even the contempt of court notice has failed to enforce action," said Aras.

He said now the state government is talking about handing over the 'dead lakes' to builders.

"Well, the lakes are almost dead because of inaction by the agencies. They still can be revived if due action is taken. The agencies will take this matter seriously only if their heads are punished for dereliction of duty. However, this crucial step is somehow avoided by all courts, which results in business as usual," he said.

He paid ₹90,000 & lost just 2 kg

Man goes to cops claiming wellness centre cheated him after promising weight reduction

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Are you planning to reduce weight? Make sure you make an informed decision as you may end up not losing weight, but just money. A middle-aged man has now approached Vyalikaval police alleging that a wellness centre cheated him of Rs 90,000 by promising him reduction in weight. However, in the whole process, he lost just 2 kg.

Basavaraj, the complainant, said, "I saw an advertisement on social media where I was promised I could lose 20 kg in just three months. However, in the last eight months, I have just lost two kg. This is nothing but cheating."

He said that at first, he was asked to pay Rs 70,000 as an advance.

"As the treatment started, the clinic personnel told me they have to charge me Rs 20,000 extra as I was obese. As I wanted to lose weight at any cost, I paid that too." He said he later asked the clinic to return his amount, but the personnel put the blame on him saying he hadn't followed some practices.

Health experts caution people against unverified wellness clinics that are luring people under the pretext of weight loss. "It is true that many people are worried about putting on weight. But if anyone suffers from obesity, they need to contact nutritionists who will evaluate the body parameters and suggest the right food. However, some people are taking shortcuts to cut down on weight. Such measures can prove harmful," said a nutritionist.

The expert also pointed out examples where a film actress lost her life as she wanted to reduce obesity using harmful methods. "Another reason why people want to cut down weight is due to bullying. It is common for overweight people to be bullied. Many of our patients approach us that they are desperate to cut down weight as they are tired of bullying by family members or friends. It is also necessary for us to educate society that it is not right to bully an obese person. They could be suffering from some health issues that causes weight gain," said the expert.

Big concerns

Another health expert told BM that fuelled by urbanisation, nutrition transition, and increasingly sedentary lifestyles, obesity has become an epidemic in Asian countries.

"They also tend to develop diabetes at younger ages and have lower BMI levels than Caucasians. Several factors contribute to this increase in diabetes include high prevalence of smoking and heavy alcohol use; high intake of refined carbohydrates such as white rice; and reduced physical activity levels. Poor nutrition in early life combined with over nutrition in later life also plays a significant role. Interactions between Westernised diet and lifestyle and genetic background together accelerate the rate of diabetes onset in the context of this transition in nutrition," added the expert.

Threatening to call cops for smoking in car, man extorts ₹95k, gold chains

Police have launched a hunt for the man who robbed Rs 95,000 and gold chains weighing 30 grams from a car driver on the pretext of lodging a complaint against him for smoking in the vehicle, police said on Sunday.

The incident had taken place in the limits of Ramamurthy Nagar police station. According to police, Dhananjay, a credit assessment officer with a reputed firm, was smoking while driving near Benniganahalli underpass on the way to his work place. The robber, who came on a two-wheeler objected to him and stopped his vehicle after a chase and threatened that he would get him arrested for smoking while driving the car.

The robber also threatened him that he knows police officers and can get him arrested. He also claimed he was carrying weapons with him and warned him that he should follow his instructions.

The victim was later taken to a ATM and made to withdraw Rs 95,000 using his debit and credit cards. The robber had also taken the victim's wallet and cell phone and disappeared. The incident had taken place on Wednesday. After being advised by his friends, Dhananjay lodged a police complaint had approached the police recently. The police have booked a case under IPC section 384.

The police sources explain that they are taken by surprise as the accused has taken care that his face is not registered on the CCTV camera. The police suspect that he is habitual offender and launched hunt for him. – IANS

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Taking Mysuru Road? Get, set, toll!

NHAI has notified toll fee for first stretch of Bengaluru-Nidaghatta expressway

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"We have introduced a monthly pass for locals. Return journeys within 24 hours of the time of payment across all categories will get a discount of 25 per cent –NHAI official

Your free ride on the Bengaluru-Mysuru expressway has come to an end on Sunday! From today, commuters have to pay a toll if they are opting to travel through this road. The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) notified the toll fee for the first stretch of the highway (Bengaluru-Nidaghatta). According to this list, cars will be charged Rs 135 for single entry (Rs 205 for same-day return), LCVs have to pay Rs 220 (Rs 330 for return), trucks and buses, Rs 460 (Rs 690 for return), and oversized vehicles, Rs 880 (Rs 1,315 for return).

A NHAI official said that the toll fee will be collected at the Kaniminike village, and the current toll fee will be for covering a distance of 55.63 km from Panchamukhi Ganesha temple near NICE Road junction, Kengeri to Nidaghatta. This is the first tranche of toll collection and NHAI will be collecting the second tranche of tolls from next month near Srirangapatna. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to inaugurate the fully completed Bengaluru-Mysuru stretch next month. The entire project has been divided into two phases. While the first phase between Bengaluru-Nidaghatta has been completed, the second phase (Nidaghatta-Mysuru) is in the final stages, barring some work.

Arvind R, a regular traveller on the stretch, said that it is likely that one-way travel between Bengaluru to Mysuru will be around Rs 250 and the return will be around Rs 600, going by the current toll fee collected. Although toll collection has started, the NHAI is yet to fix many issues, he said, adding that service roads have not been completed. "Service roads are essential as vehicles that are unable or unwilling to pay toll can take it. There has also been an increase in cases of wrong side driving at many junctions, which can be very harmful. The police and NHAI should take steps to penalise violators. Recently, Maddur MLA DC Thammanna had highlighted how the service roads were constructed unscientifically and were of poor quality. During the assembly session, Thammanna had said that when SM Krishna was the Chief Minister, the Bengaluru-Mysuru Road was widened from two lanes to four lanes as not many industries were relocating to the royal city. However, the four-laning work provided jobs to more than 35,000 people. Now, with the 10-lane highway, the travel time has been cut down, but it has severely impacted local businesses. It is necessary for the NHAI to consider the above points and incorporate the necessary changes," he said.

Meanwhile, many locals have been demanding free entry for themselves on the expressway. Reacting to this, a NHAI official said, "We have introduced a monthly pass for the locals. We are providing some concessions at the toll plaza. A Rs 315 pass for a month for non-commercial vehicles of those residing within 20 km of toll plaza will be brought forth. Return journeys within 24 hours of the time of payment across all categories will get a discount of 25 per cent." Around 50 single journeys in a month can be made at a discount of 33 per cent from the date of payment for all vehicles.

Canine chase sequence puts citizens on edge

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People across the city have reported being chased by stray dogs

After a rise in stray dog packs turning aggressive, with instances of two-wheeler riders and even kids being chased by dogs, many in the city have expressed concern.

Citizens in these areas say that they are trying to find ways to avoid these attacks. Reshma Anand, a resident of Jalahalli, said, "These incidents mostly happen during the evening hours. My kids come back home on their cycles after playing and they have been chased by the stray dogs several times. They are very young and don't know how to deal with the situation. They almost got bitten once because they were trying to run away."

Many say that they have often been chased by these dogs in their area while riding two-wheelers. Ajit Ashok, a resident staying near JP Park, said that the menace of stray dogs is beyond control in this area as they keep running behind everyone. "I was chased by a group of eight dogs while I was coming back from office at night. I was quite scared because they looked ferocious. They kept on chasing me all the way to my house and kept on barking even when I tried to shoo them away."

The residents say that one of the reasons behind the presence of so many dogs in the area is the leftover food that is kept on footpaths by other people.

"The reason why so many dogs keep chasing people is because they are looking for food in these areas where they have formed a habit to find food. People should not throw food around like that because not only does it increase the menace of the stray dogs but it also affects the hygiene of the area," Mahesh Gowda, residing in Basaveshwaranagar, said.

Diksha Sinha, another resident of the area, added that instances of being faced with a stray dog pack can feel quite threatening.

Soundarya Gowda, a dog lover, said that it is important for parents to teach their children how to behave in front of stray dogs and to not run when they encounter them. People should try to be gentle with them, because most of the time, they are scared and act ferociously to mask it, added Gowda.

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Extended problems

Nandini Layout

BWSSB manholes are protruding up on roads by more than 6 inches – like this one on 18th Main Road, Nandini Layout.

Too much?

Vijayanagar

The entire area around Vijayanagar metro station is occupied by eateries.

Happy to help!

Gubbalala

After BM's report, this road on Gubbalala was asphalted by the BBMP.

Advertorial

Shivamogga: Marching towards becoming a Smart City

Smart City projects to be inaugurated by Prime Minister on 27th February

10th Position at National level among 100 Smart Cities

44
Total completed projects to be inaugurated
897.16 Cr.
Cost

The city of Shivamogga is marching ahead in its development. Many new projects have been envisioned for the overall growth and development of this city. Accordingly it is selected for the Smart City project which has given a infrastructure boost for the city.

100 Smart Cities are shaping up to change the face of Urban Development in India. Shivamogga stands among the top 10 Smart Cities in the nation.

- **Shri B Y Raghavendra** MP, Shivamogga

"Smart Cities Mission" is witnessing a milestone in Shivamogga where our Prime Minister will inaugurate 44 completed projects of Smart City Projects.

- **Shri K S Eshwarappa** MLA, Shivamogga

On this memorable occasion of Smart City Projects inauguration by the Prime Minister, we recollect the 5 years of journey of Shivamogga into Smart City.

- **Shri Chidananda S Vatare** MD, Shivamogga Smart City

Shivamogga is one of the 7 Smart Cities chosen by MoHUA in Karnataka. It is the matter of pride that the Prime Minister is inaugurating the completed works.

- **Shri Basavaraja B A** Minister for Urban Development, Karnataka

In Prime Minister's vision to transform the nation through Smart City Mission Shivamogga has got an opportunity to change the landscape of the city.

- **Dr. Narayana Gowda** District - In-charge Minister, Shivamogga

Smart Cities Mission is a flagship initiative under the aegis of Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Govt of India initiated in 2015 under which 100 Smart Cities are selected in 3 rounds with an ambition to develop them into light house cities which will be the replicas of future liveable cities.

Shivamogga Smart City Limited is a Special Purpose Vehicle selected in 2nd round of Smart Cities challenge and formed as an SPV in 2017 to implement the various infrastructure development projects. Shivamogga Smart City has been implementing the projects to realize its vision statement " Transforming Shivamogga into Eco tourism destination through Green urbanism".

As such a total of 44 projects of which, 43 projects at a cost of Rs. 852.74 Cr under Smart Cities Mission funding and 1 Project from PPP costing Rs. 44.42 Cr are ready for inauguration by the Prime Minister.

8 Smart Roads at a cost of Rs.501.73 Cr

SSCL has taken up and completed Core infrastructure development projects under ABD area (6.0 Sq Km of the Core Commercial Area of the City) with retrofitting strategy in 8 Smart Roads of 110 Km Length at a cost of Rs.501.73 Cr with Under Ground utility corridors for running HT/ LT electrical lines, Water Supply lines, OFC lines in order to reduce the frequent road cuttings for laying the utilities by different service providers and stakeholders involving the Service delivery to citizens. These Smart Roads have dedicated UG utility corridors for Water Supply, Electricity, Sewage, OFC lines, Street lights with dedicated Cycle paths for about 34 Kms with an overall 120 Km of cycle able roads & exclusive pedestrian paths.

LED Street Light Projects

Apart from these SSCL has aimed at energy conservation aspects through Public Private partnership mode at a cost of Rs. 44.42 Cr by replacing more than 20730 conventional street lights with LED lights with Centralized Control and Monitoring System (1081 Nos) for remote operations of Street lighting system connected with ICCC, which is expected to save approx. 48% of the energy being consumed by the street lighting in the city.

Parks at a cost of Rs.134.73Cr:

SSCL with a view of long term environmental sustainability, has developed 17 parks of different scales and adopted green urbanization in 19 locations (with 8630 saplings planted and Miyawaki forest concept with the plantations endemic to Shivamogga and western ghat region) at a cost of Rs. 134.73 Cr ranging from neighbourhood level open spaces to large scale public place rendering at Tunga River Front Development to contribute the green cover of the city.

5 projects at a cost of Rs.68.43Cr:

SSCL has taken up various ICT interventions at a cost of Rs. 68.43 Cr in different sectors like Education (Smart Education project in 45 Govt Schools of the City), Digital Libraries with subscription content apart from its flagship project Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC) which essentially have components of City Surveillance System, Intelligent Traffic Management System using advanced RADAR and ANPR integration and Adaptive Traffic Control System at 14 traffic Junctions by implementing Red Light Violation Detection System.

Infrastructure Projects

100 Smart Bus Shelters, Multi-level Car Parking, Private Bus Stand Development etc, along with Junction Improvements by correcting the geometrics of the roads to improve mobility aspects besides making them aesthetically pleasing at a cost of Rs.59.86 Cr.

Electrical cabling Work

Under the utility undergrounding works, Shivamogga Smart City has taken up 8 projects for UG HT/LT cabling costing Rs.46.27 Cr. Under these projects, SSCL has executed 45 Km road length of HT/LT cabling works in order to establish a robust and interruption free transmission and distribution of electricity network to Shivamogga.

Heritage Projects

Shivamogga Smart City has conservation and restoration of Heritage buildings at a cost of Rs. 21.08 Cr Viz., GMMS Schools, City Corporation building and the restoration of iconic Shivappa Nayaka Palace to its original state and to boost the local tourism at a cost of Rs 21.08 Cr.

Development of Conservancies:

SSCL has also developed conservancies by bringing 90+ abandoned conservancy lanes of total length 12.20 Km in 3 packages at a cost of Rs. 20.64 Cr to the functional use for various utilitarian purposes like Vehicle Parking, Food courts, Vending zones, Children play areas, Gym equipment etc., to make them litter free and breathable spaces.

Too many warnings ignored

Is Bengaluru's 'illegal flex menace' vicious cycle of empty threats?

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The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is supposed to keep the city free from visual pollution. To ensure this, they have to work with dedication and commitment to remove flexes, banners and posters put up by political parties and community leaders.

However, the more they remove these banners, the more they pop up on one pretext or the other. It is a known fact that no political party is following the ban on flexes and banners in the city. They compete with each other in terms of putting up as many flexes as they can, wherever possible, when their national leaders visit the city. While the Congress leaves no stone unturned to occupy any available space to put up banners and draw the attention of its national leaders, the BJP does not lag behind by any means.

It has become a habit for BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath to issue an order or statement whenever someone raises the problem of illegal banners in the city. The Chief Commissioner said that the BBMP revenue inspectors had filed 75 to 100 complaints with jurisdictional police against illegal banners, but the complaints seem to have had no impact.

"The revenue inspectors filed 75 to 100 complaints with jurisdictional police, but it served no purpose. The police registered those complaints as private complaints. We want the police to register cases under the Karnataka Open Places (Prevention of Disfigurement) Act, 1981. The police have agreed to cooperate with us," said Nath.

An illegal flex spotted at Vijayanagar junction; the Karnataka HC is hearing a writ petion on illegal flexes

He said that he has already issued an order to all Zonal Commissioners.

He told every revenue inspector that they have to book five complaints against illegal banners and flexes. "The problem with the flexes issue is the lack of knowledge of proper addresses of those who put them up. If the revenue inspectors fail to lodge complaints with the police, their senior officers will be held responsible for their dereliction of duty," he said.

It is said that flexes and banners have been put up extensively in areas like Yelahanka, Vijayanagar, Shanthi Nagar, Malleswaram, and Shivajinagar.

> **"Revenue inspectors filed 75-100 complaints with jurisdictional police, but it served no purpose**
>
> – Tushar Giri Nath, BBMP Chief Commissioner

GR Mohan, an advocate who filed a writ petition against illegal banners, said that BBMP authorities and police have failed to implement the Karnataka High Court ban. "Politicians continue to violate the ban on putting up illegal posters and flexes," he pointed out.

Meanwhile, the Karnataka High Court Chief Justice, while hearing the writ petition, directed senior officers to find out where there was dereliction of duty by the subordinate officers. Necessary action will be taken against erring officers and a comprehensive report will be submitted to the court on or before March 6.

The High Court listed the petition for hearing on March 7.

'There's limits to pvt school fee hikes'

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Exorbitant fee hikes by private schools has been a constant cause of worry for parents in Karnataka. On February 23, a parent from Bengaluru challenged the education department in the Karnataka High Court for their inaction against 'illegal fee hikes' by a private school in the city.

Sijo Sebastian, a parent and the joint secretary of the Voice of Parents Organisation, Karnataka, had filed a case against the private school his son attended for imposing a 15 per cent hike on the annual tuition fee in 2020 despite the pandemic. He said that the school included other components such as library and maintenance fee in the tuition fee that was not to be charged during the course of online classes.

Upon refusing to pay the complete fee, his child was barred from attending the online classes and he was forced to admit the child into another school.

He had additionally filed seven writ petitions in the High Court in 2022 against the state education department for inaction and flouting of various rules under the Right to Education (RTE) Act.

Sebastian told Bangalore Mirror, "It started in 2019 when I noticed that in five years, from 2014 to 2019, there had been a fee hike of more than 85 per cent. In 2019, I filed a complaint with the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) and the Deputy Commissioner against the school."

During a recent hearing, the HC said that the state government cannot regulate fees for private unaided institutions. However, the petitioners say that his submission has no connection with the recent act.

"My petition is based on the RTE Act passed by the central government in 2009 and the Karnataka RTE rules made by the Karnataka legislature in 2012," he explained.

The High Court has adjourned the matter till the next hearing on March 14.

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

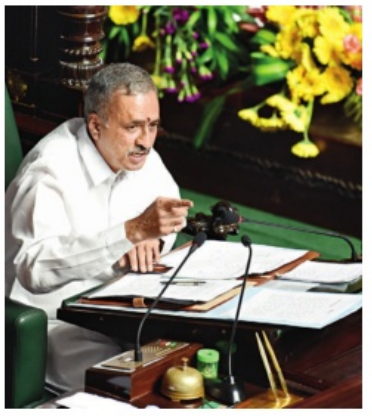
War of words

Last week saw an intense war of words between two bureaucrats. On Monday, IAS officer Rohini Sindhuri went to Vidhana Soudha to

complain against IPS officer Roopa to Chief Secretary Vandita Sharma. Later, she was speaking to the media regarding the issue. This was when PWD Minister CC Patil was also exiting Vidhana Soudha. It is a well-known fact that the public spat had turned into an embarrassment for the government. Angered over seeing Sindhuri speaking to the media, Patil told the IAS officer that it was not right on her part to do so. Following this, the IAS officer also exited the place.

'Don't bunk'

Bunking is not just common in educational institutions. Recently, Speaker Vishweshwara Hegde Kageri was visibly unhappy that not many MLAs had turned up for the session. He had said that as it was the last session of this government, he had



expected it to be a full house. 55 minutes into the session, he had said, "We still lack a quorum as many are yet to turn up. I request all the MLAs to attend the session given the fact that this is the last session of this tenure."

Unparliamentary 'lie'

Is 'lie' an unparliamentary word? This was the topic for discussion during the latest assembly session. The Leader of Opposition said that the word 'lie' was not used in previous sessions. Instead, 'far from truth' was used. However, now it is accepted that the word 'lie' can be used in parliamentary proceedings. It is no longer an unparliamentary word. Speaker Vishweshwara Hegde Kageri wanted to know the opinion of Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister JC Madhuswamy. He cited an example of then speaker SM Krishna saying 'far from truth' was synonymous with 'lie'.

No OTP, no vote

As the elections approach, it is time for voters to demand their rights. Many communities and residents have threatened to boycott elections if their demands are not met. Voters of Kalasa in Chikkamagaluru district have launched a unique campaign saying they will not vote if they don't get 'OTP'. The residents have been demanding better mobile connectivity for a long time. Many of them say that they are unable to make online transactions as they never get OTPs due to poor network.

—Sridhar Vivan

Brad's dinner date Hollywood star Brad Pitt was recently seen at a fancy dinner with his rumoured girlfriend Ines de Ramon in Paris. The 59-year-old actor and the 30-year-old celebrity health coach are said to have been together since November last year

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INTERVIEW | SHANTHI PRIYA, ACTRESS

She is a fighter. And she is back

Shanthi Priya gets candid about her sabbatical, tough times in life and her comeback

Shanthi Priya was at the top of the game when she started her acting career at 19. Within a short span of time, she became one of the leading actresses working across Tamil, Telugu, Kannada and Hindi cinema. She decided to quit the film industry after getting married to actor Siddharth Ray at the age of 24. After three decades, she is all set to make a comeback on the big screen with Sarojini Naidu's biopic.

In a conversation with ETimes' Pramod Gaikwad, Shanthi Priya gets candid about her sabbatical from films, facing a tough time while raising her children as a single mother after her husband actor Siddharth Ray's death.

Did you always want to become an actress?

No. I had never thought about becoming an actor. I was a classical dancer. My sister Bhanupriya and I, had learnt classical dance since childhood. When didi started acting, I also thought of becoming an actor. I actually wanted to become a lawyer.

You were referred to as the rising star during the 1990s. What led you to quit films when you were at the top of the game?

I fell in love (laughs). I was in love with the person I got married to. I truly believe in whatever I do. When I took the step of getting married, I wanted to give it 1000 per cent. So I did that and played that character in life, which is why I had to take a step back from acting. But they (actor Siddharth Ray, Shanthi Priya's husband, was V Shantaram's grandson) were also from the same industry so there were no restrictions for me. It was totally my decision to dedicate myself to my marriage.

Was it tough raising two children on your own as a single mother?

I am a fighter. I take everything as challenge. Actually, I struggled to get myself out of that situation. I was in pain for 2-3 years. The pain used to hit every time I looked at my kids. One was about 10 years old and the other about 4.5 years old. I felt they didn't deserve what they were going through. It wasn't fair that they lost one parent and then had to see the other parent deal with depression. So, I told myself, 'This is not who I should be and this is not what I should give my sons because they don't deserve what they're seeing'. I worked on myself again. I took it as a challenge. I decided to give them the best and then I worked on it and I came out of it.

You've worked in three South industries as well as in Hindi, have you ever felt a difference in the people and the culture?

Frankly speaking, I feel I was blessed to have worked in Telugu, Tamil, Kannada and Hindi cinema. Everyone I met, whether it was the directors, actors or the production house, everybody was so disciplined that I never felt the difference. Whether I was working in North or South, I always got disciplined colleagues. You take Akshay, Raj Sippy, Salim Akhtar, Mithun Chakraborty, Krishna Murthy, KC Bokadia or Ashok Gaikwad, everybody used to come on time. For the 9 am shift, we used to report on set at 8:30-8:45. Recently, even during Dharavi Bank, director Samit Kakkad and Suniel Shetty used to come on time. I have never encountered or known anything different.

Tell us about your comeback plans.

I have full-fledged plans for my career. I have not come to enjoy, do masti or work in films for a couple of years and then leave. I have come back to where I belong. I have rested a lot. But now I don't want to rest anymore. I want to be busy 24/7 all 365 days. I should not have taken much time for myself. This is what I want.

Too happening, but nothing happens

VIDHI (ARTICLE) 370

2.5 RATING ★★½☆☆

- **DIRECTOR** K Shankar
- **ACTORS** Shashikumar, Shruthi, Shivaram, Doddarange Gowda, Ramesh Bhat, Ganesh Rao, Yathiraj
- **CERTIFICATION** U/A
- **Duration** 106 minutes

This film revolves around terror activities and problems of the Kashmiri Pandits and the circumstances that led to revocation of the special status of Jammu and Kashmir.

The movie starts off with a scene where terrorists are receiving money from a foreigner to carry out terror activities in Jammu and Kashmir. Later the scene shits to Karnataka where a migrated Kashmir Pandit works as a priest. The director introduces Susheel Kumar (Sharath Kumar), a colonel, and his wife Preethi (Shruthi) who needs a heart transplant. Susheel Kumar is leaving no stone unturned to ensure his wife gets the best treatment but he receives a call from Army Headquarters to join duty immediately.

Matters are tense in Kashmir as the terrorists ask Pandits to convert to Islam or leave Kashmir. Susheel Kumar leads troops against militants. What happens to Susheel Kumar and Preethi is what the movie is about.

Director K Shankar has tried to accommodate as many actors and issues as possible. He also makes an attempt to find solutions for all the issues. However, one thing he couldn't crack -- quality in film making. The movie is like a wobbly coalition government held up by a lot of political parties.

As far as the performance of the actors is concerned, senior actors Shashikumar and Shruthi have no scope to showcase their skills. Shashikumar has nothing to do except meet a doctor, work on a computer and wave to soldiers. We are told Shruthi needs a heart transplant but she looks hale and healthy. It is a pity to see Prof Doddarange Gowda in such an insignificant role (as a garage owner). He looks expressionless in most scenes and his body language is not worth even talking about. Ramesh Bhat, Yathiraj and Ganesh Rao provide good support. This provides an opportunity to see veteran character actor late Shivaram on screen.

Cinematography by Chandru Sondekoppa is not up to the mark, but music by Vinu Manasu is good.

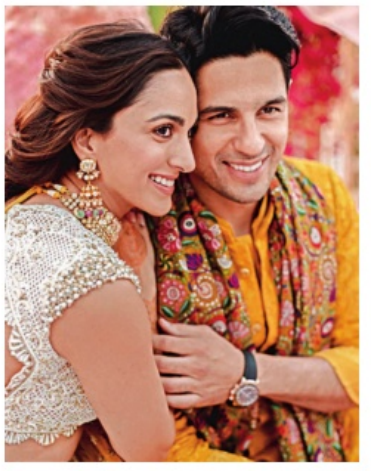
All in all, the movie is worth a watch, not for a cinematic experience but if you are interested in the travails the Kashmir Pandits had to go through.

—Y Maheswara Reddy

When you marry someone you love

Newlyweds Sidharth Malhotra and Kiara Advani were recently spotted together at their first award night after marriage and the couple had the sweetest things to say for each other. While on the stage, Kiara opened up on the emotional state of mind she was in during their wedding and how she reacted after seeing Sidharth as her groom.

An emotional Kiara, while speaking about her first reaction, revealed that she was so excited to see Sidharth as the groom waiting for her at the mandap. A visibly blushing Kiara recalled, "I was very emotional. But as soon as the door opened and I saw him, from inside I was like, 'Yay, I am getting married.' And I went on with that feeling. And of course, when you marry someone you love, the love of your love, you will feel that way."



— ETimes

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Leaf burning menace

they are busy collecting waste from commercial entities and restaurants. If the BBMP SWM team focused more on residential areas, our streets would have been cleaner," said Amit Nigli, a resident of OMBR Layout.

According to Pravir Bagrodia, a resident of Whitefield, there are instances of dry waste burning in the area. "It's not clear whether PKs or residents are responsible. But in the last few years, such cases have come down. It used to be a frequent issue during summer."

A Babu, a resident of Uttarahalli, told BM that there are many instances of PKs burning the dry leaves there: "Waste is being swept up and burnt on every road. The roads have dark soot spots on them. Instead of transporting the vehicles to the DWCC, they dump leaves in an empty plot and set the litter ablaze. The issue was brought to the attention of BBMP special commissioner (SWM) Harish Kumar."

Varthur residents said, in their area, residents themselves are burning the garbage. "Along with dry leaves, medicine strips, tobacco products, plastic are also being burnt daily. The act causes heavy pollution in the area. Most people don't understand the impact of burning mixed waste in the city. BBMP needs to create more awareness. We tried to reach out to the pollution watchdog Karnataka State Pollution Control Board but there was no help provided in this regard. Officials need to penalise the violators and set an example," said Reddy, a resident of Varthur.

Meanwhile, Kanakapura resident Aleem told BM that garbage was being burnt regularly there and despite complaints no action has been taken. "BBMP is now using the area as a transfer point for the solid waste; right next to the spot in question, garbage is burnt regularly," he added.

Bellandur residents are fed up with the issue too. "In Bellandur, Harlur, Junnasandra and Doddakannelli Road, there is a lot of garbage being burnt; additionally during summers, trees are burnt as well to clear land for construction of buildings," a resident said.

SWM expert V Ram Prasad said while leaves are being burnt, mixed waste is set on fire too. "Trees are shedding leaves. Waste collected during road sweeping needs to be disposed of regularly. BBMP needs to effectively pass the collection and transport tender as these form a mandate in the tender. Once the tender is passed, there will be higher accountability. If it continues, it will affect the Swacch Sarvekashan ranking of the city. NCAP and KSPCB should watch out for an increase in pollution due to such acts. KSPCB could issue a notice to BBMP in this regard. Due to humidity, Bengaluru has high numbers of asthmatic patients; leaf burning could worsen the AQI as well," he added.

However, the BBMP denied leaf burning was rampant in the city. "We have directed PKs not to burn garbage and shall place fines on them. We have directed JHIs and AEEs to look after their areas. Repeat offences will lead to penalties on concerned officials. Dry leaves need to be collected along with dry waste and sent to waste processing plants. New compost-making plant will help in this regard," said a senior BBMP official.

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I Anupa Bannakudage Rayappa W/o Manoja.S.Beri R/o No 31,Shree Kamadhenu, 80 Feet Main Road, Devendra Layout, Gubbalala, Subramanyapura Post, Bengaluru 560061 Karnataka have changed my name as Anupa Manoja Beri for all purposes.

I, Manoja Sridhar Beri S/O Sridhar.B.S R/o No 31, Shree Kamadhenu,80 Feet Main Road, Devendra Layout, Gubbalala, Subramanyapura Post, Bengaluru 560061 have changed my minor daughter name from Neeharika Manoj Beri to Neeharika Manoja Beri

I Dhwani D/O, Pardeep Kumar R/o D-554, Krishvi Gavakshi Apts, Gear Road, Kadubeesanahalli. Bangalore, 560103. have changed my name to Dhwani Singh Kadian for all purposes.

I, Fadiya D/o Abdulla Anas Ruknuddin R/o No 2 Flat No 4 B 3rd Cross Ramakka Block K G Byderhalli Chinnappa Garden, Bangalore 560046 have changed my name to Fadiya Ruknuddin for all purposes

I Naganandini W/o T Rathinam R/o Jinkethimanahalli, Bengaluru have changed my name from Naganandini to Naganandhini for all future purposes.

I, Manish Ranjan R/o 4052, Sobha Daisy, Green Glen Layout, Bellandur, Bangalore, 560103 have changed my minor daughter's name from Aaryaa Tiwari to Aarya Tiwary

I Akash Kaushikbhai Shah S/O, Kaushik Shah R/o Af-3, Orchid Block, Buildafina Golf View, Isro Colony, Domlur have changed my name to Akash Kaushik Shah

I, Richa Sharma W/o Aditya Mohan R/o H-111 , Army flats , Sec-4 , MDC, Panchkula (HR) have changed my name to Richa Mohan for all purposes.

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HEALTH TIP: Diets with inadequate protein can result in weak, brittle hair and loss of hair color, as well as loss of hair itself

After washing or bathing, gently pat or blot your skin dry with a towel so that some moisture remains on your skin

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BLACK COFFEE BENEFITS

While overdosing on coffee can be highly problematic, this beverage has many pros

For most adults, coffee is more than just a beverage or a hot morning drink; it is like the fuel that keeps their body battery charged up. But do you know what kind of impact it has on your body?

Overdosing on coffee can be one of the most common and silliest things people do that can affect their bodies in the long run. We know, there's no such thing as too much coffee! But that stands true only on social media. Everything that we consume is bound to affect our bodies and health, which is why it is important to watch over whatever we eat and drink.

While you need to consider monitoring your black coffee consumption, along with every portion of all caffeinated beverages, you also need to understand that black coffee does come with its set of health benefits.

Health Benefits

If you love black coffee, you will be happy to learn that the beverage offers plenty of benefits, both for your body and your mind.
Keep in mind that the nutritional benefits of black coffee listed below are for 100ml of plain, unsweetened black coffee without milk. Coffee is naturally high in vitamin B-2, B-3, magnesium, potassium, and phenolic compounds. Other micronutrients found in black coffee include manganese, sodium, riboflavin, and niacin. The caffeine content in black coffee helps to make you more alert and improves performance, which is why it is recommended before workout routines. Finally, coffee is naturally high in antioxidants such as melanoidins.

Makes Your Heart Stronger

One of the Black coffee benefits includes antioxidants and helps in keeping your blood pressure in check. A few studies also claim that if you regularly consume one or two cups of coffee every day, your risk of developing heart-related ailments reduces.

Boosts Your Memory

Black coffee is believed to have great properties that help in improving your memory over time. It also helps in keeping memory-related diseases at bay.

Alzheimer's Disease Prevention

Alzheimer's disease primarily affects the elderly, usually those over the age of 65. One of the black coffee benefits may help to lower the risk of Alzheimer's disease.

Reduced Risk of Cancer

According to some studies, coffee may help reduce the risk of developing certain cancers such as liver cancer, colon cancer, and breast cancer. Coffee aids in the reduction of internal inflammation.

Diabetes Management

Many studies suggest that drinking black coffee can help you effectively combat diabetes risk. Coffee may help to increase insulin production in the body, which may help to regulate blood glucose levels.

Beneficial For Liver Health

The liver is a vital organ that is essential to keep our bodies healthy. Black coffee benefits include the reduction of harmful liver enzymes found in the blood. According to some studies, coffee may help reduce the risk of liver cancer, fatty liver disease, hepatitis, and liver cirrhosis.

Keeps Your Stomach Clean

Since coffee is a diuretic drink, the more your drink, the more you'll pee, as it flushes the bacteria and toxins out of your body. This helps in keeping your stomach clean and healthy.

Rich in Antioxidants

Several rich antioxidants are found in black coffee that enhance the health benefit it promises. It contains potassium, magnesium, Vitamin B2, B3 and B5, as well as manganese.'

Aids Weight Loss

One of the key benefits of black coffee include rapid weight loss by making you work out more if you have it for a few minutes as your pre-workout. Black coffee also helps to boost metabolism by approximately 50 per cent. It also burns the fat in the tummy since it is a fat-burning beverage. It also stimulates the nervous system which signals the body to break down the fat cells and use them as a source of energy as opposed to glycogen.

—Shilpa Dubey (Femina)

MIRRORLIGHTS

Obesity can raise risk of death

Excess weight or obesity is more deadly than previously believed. According to a new study, it boosts risk of death by anywhere from 22 per cent to 91 per cent.

The findings, published in the journal Population Studies, counter prevailing wisdom that excess weight boosts mortality risk only in extreme cases.

The study showed that groups with higher body mass index (BMI) have higher mortality rates, contrary to numerous studies that show that heart disease, high blood pressure and diabetes (which are often associated with being overweight) elevate mortality risk.

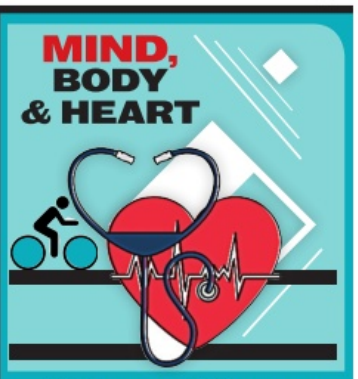
"The conventional wisdom is that elevated BMI generally does not raise mortality risk until you get to very high levels, and that there are actually some survival benefits to being overweight," said author Ryan Masters, Associate

Professor of sociology at University of Colorado Boulder.

He noted that BMI, which doctors and scientists often use as a health measure, is based on weight and height only and doesn't account for differences in body composition or how long a person has been overweight.

"It's a reflection of stature at a point in time. That's it," said Masters, noting that "it isn't fully capturing all of the nuances and different sizes and shapes the body comes in."

According to most studies, the "overweight" category (BMI 25-30) surprisingly has the lowest mortality risk. —IANS



All problems solved

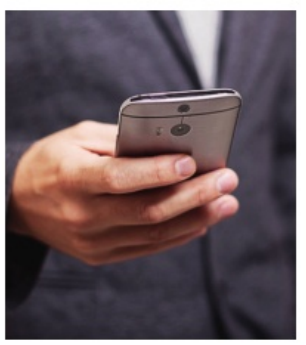
Dear Coleen

I've started seeing an amazing girl I met online. There's so much chemistry between us and I really think it could develop into a serious relationship. My worry is that I'm coming over as too keen and my friends have even suggested she'll lose interest if I'm "too available". I text and email her a lot and agree to everything she wants to do. I just really like her and want to show her that I'm taking things seriously. I haven't dated anyone I've really liked for a long time and want to get it right. Am I being too needy?

COLEEN SAYS

I really don't believe in playing games and if you start backing off now, it's going to send out a mixed message and she might think you've gone and lost interest in her.
I think it's important to be honest with a partner right from the start and you're being honest about how you feel.
She'll tell you if things are going too fast or if she feels bombarded by texts. This is an exciting stage of the relationship and I think it's normal to be keen to be in touch all the time.
As long as you're both happy and you're not sitting around waiting for her replies or worrying if she doesn't text back instantly, then I think you're doing OK. Enjoy it.

—Coleen Nolan, Daily Mirror



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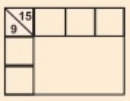
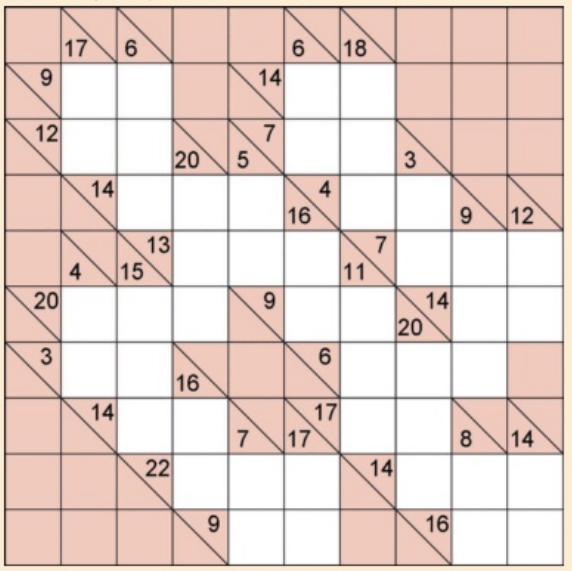
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

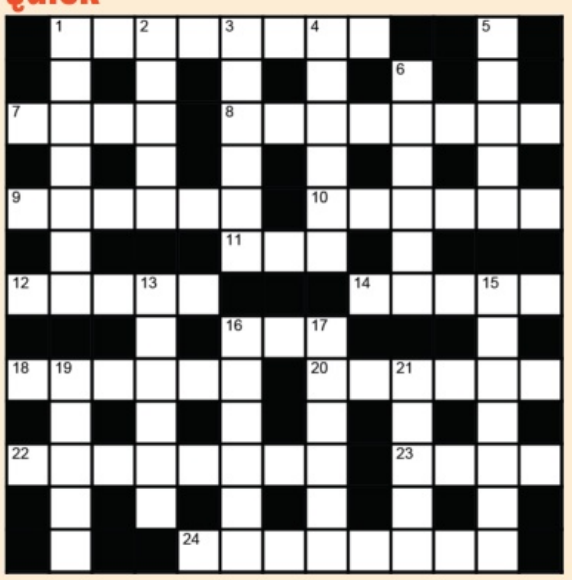


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Shows up (8)
7 Elliptical (4)
8 Peer or lord (8)
9 Reliable (6)
10 A 5-cent American coin (6)
11 Hang down from the middle (3)
12 Move smoothly (5)
14 Prison rooms (5)
16 Priestly vestment (3)
18 One of the best cricketers ever from Karnataka (6)
20 Laws or propositions (6)
22 Stand in for (8)
23 Keen (4)
24 Making certain? (8)

DOWN

1 Many (7)
2 Turns over (5)
3 Irks or pesters (6)
4 Subsiding or abating (6)
5 Arbitrary decree (5)
6 Salvage or save (6)
13 Pious or holy (6)
15 Moving with a lame walk (7)
16 Lets in (6)
17 A light boat (6)
19 Smells strongly of (5)
21 Middle-Easterner (5)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: B EQUALS U

GDB WBZH KC QY HBYC XQHV HVC HQWCZ JYR FTCFJTCR HD KTCJS XQHV HTJRQHQDY.

Linemaro

You are making all the women here look ordinary

Mindchow

Do not speak unless you can improve the silence

Joke of the day

Save a boyfriend for a rainy day – and another in case it doesn't rain

– Mae West

Loop

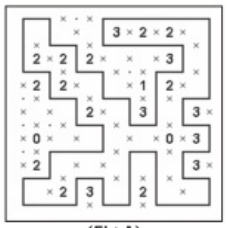
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

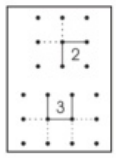
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

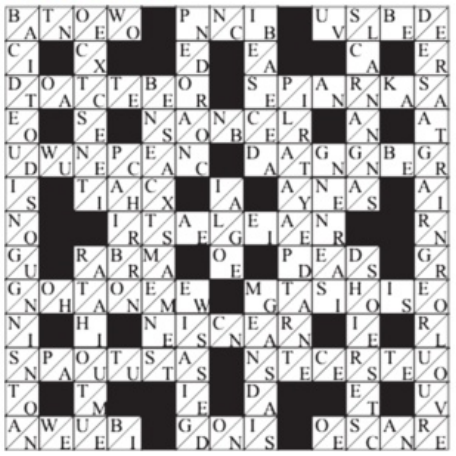


(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed

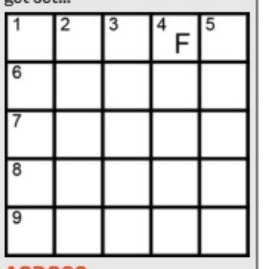
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

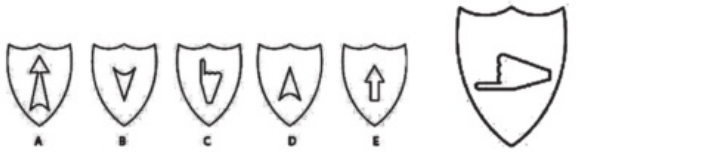
1 CF Art; 6 Ellis;
7 As she; 8 He set;
9 Stint

DOWN

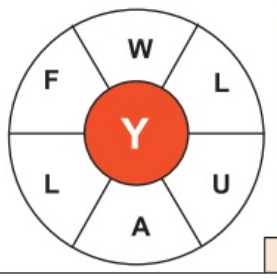
1 Talcs; 2 Irish;
3 An she; 4 L feet;
5 Stets

Mensapuzzle

Which is the missing shield?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

03 Average; **04** Good; **05** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	4	8			5		6	
					1		3	7
		1	9		6		2	
			1	5		6	9	
	1	4		2	3			
	6		5		2	3		
7	8		4					
	2		7			4	5	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 10

2 5 6 7

Medium = 13

1 3 7 8

Hard = 8

2 6 8 4

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

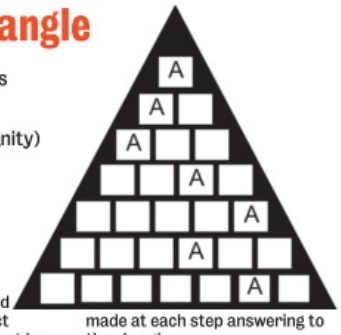
Differences: 1. Sign is taller. 2. Rock is missing. 3. Pocket is missing. 4. Cap is larger. 5. Leg is moved. 6. Thumb is moved.

Riddler

What connects the St Louis Cardinals, Detroit Tigers and the Colorado Rockies?

Alpha triangle

1 Blood group
2 Computer smarts
3 Manner
4 Persia today
5 Beneath (esp. dignity)
6 Unjust
7 A rowdy person



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

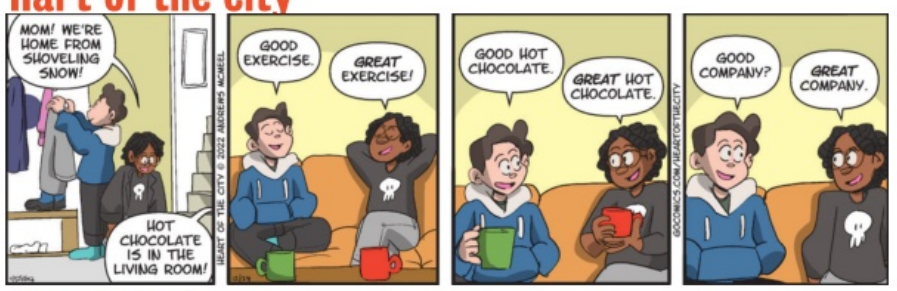
Redeye by Mel Casson

THESE ARE HORSESHOES, LOCO, AND YOU'RE REALLY GOING TO LIKE THEM
TAP TAP TAP
12-10
LET'S TRY THEM OUT... TROT DOWN THE TRAIL A LITTLE WAYS
DON'T TELL ME I PUT THEM ON BACKWARDS!

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

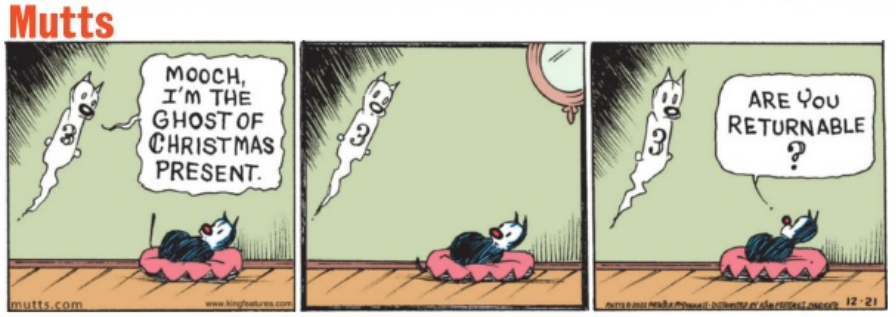
Hart of the city



Crankshaft

THERE'S A BIG WINTER STORM HEADED OUR WAY...
AND YOU CAN TELL BECAUSE THE BRRRRRR-OMETER IS REALLY DROPPING!
YEP... THAT'S PHIL THE FORECASTER, ALL RIGHT!
12-17
BATIUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books

Mutts



WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today your willpower may help you start some new innovations on the work front. You are likely to get a big order in your parental business, which will lead to growth in the near future. New responsibilities in your job can make you busy. Jobseekers might get a good job. Understanding with your spouse may be improved, which can maintain harmony in the family life.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today you may face health issues, which can make you inpatient. You may spend your hard-earned money on buying worthless stuff. You are advised to control your temper. Lovebirds are advised to avoid discussions on worthless topics, otherwise there will be a breakup.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today you will meet some influential people who will help you in the progress of your work. Your network will be strong with the help of them. You may prepare yourself to implement new ideas in your work or business. You will plan to invest more capital in your business. This may give you financial gains in the future. In terms of domestic life, you will be busy with family get-togethers and social events.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today your mothers' health may be good. You may enjoy it at work.
You may get rewards for your hard work. Your social respect may be increased now. Overworking your mind can make you tired. Due to workload, you may not be able to reach a family event.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today you may be satisfied with yourself at work. You may plan for a short work-related trip. You may also visit a spiritual place to maintain your inner peace. Your elders may show you the right path, which may give you clarity regarding your goals.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today you may feel dull. It is advised to keep your mind cool. Think twice before any act. You may need to travel to recover your money, otherwise you may lose it. You are advised to avoid going for adventure tours. Students are advised to go for in-depth study to get success.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today you may feel good and domestic harmony will make you happy. You will meet some influential person who you give you benefits on the work front. You are likely to perform well at your job. You can expect some rewards in terms of promotions. Disputes over inherited property are likely to settle down.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today you may be healthy. You may be able to focus on your goals. Your performance may be very good at work. Your boss may be happy with you and you will get some important responsibilities at work. You may hear good news in terms of a legal matter. You are likely to have control over your opponents and business rivals.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today you may prefer gaining knowledge. You may understand the value of the intellectual asset.
You may control your short temperedness, which may help you perform tasks smoothly. There may be some chances in terms of smooth earning, which may give you comfort in the workflow. You are advised to be careful before making new investments.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today you may feel negativity around you. You may find your responsibilities to be a burden. You may be in the hurry to complete a task given to you. Do not make silly mistakes. Your working efficiency may be slowed down. Your projects are likely to be delayed. It affects your professional life. You are advised to take advice from your elders before taking any important decision.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today you may be enthusiastic. You may be more focused, which may speed up your postponed projects. Your subordinates may help you start a new project, which may give you profits in the near future. You may take some short trips related to your family issues. Jobseekers may hear good news in terms of work.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today you may be able to control your expenditure on worthless things, which may increase your savings. You may be more creative today. You may use your creativity in your office or home, which may enhance your social status. Lovebirds are likely to get some support from their family members for marriage. Students may hear good news in terms of academics.

KIDZONE

Gauri Kapoor, 7 years, Bengaluru

Mithraa K, 8 years, HAL Public School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
3² + 1/3² = 1/3²
3² + 1/9 ÷ 1/9
3² + 1/9 × 9/1
3² + 9/9
9 + 1
10

BULL'S EYE
ally, AWFULLY, flay, fully, yawl

STRIKE OUT

N	A	N	E	W	P	C	B	U	S	E	D			
T	A	T	T	E	R	S	P	A	R	K	S			
C	X	E	A	C	R									
D	U	N	C	A	N	D	A	G	G	E	R			
E	E	N	O	B	E	L	A	T						
S	P	O	U	T	S	S	T	E	R	E	O			
I	H	I	N	C	E	R	I	L						
N	O	T	N	E	W	M	A	S	H	I	E			
U	A	R	M	O	P	E	S	G						
N	I	T	A	L	I	A	N							
I	T	A	C	I	Y	E	S	A						
D	U	N	C	A	N	D	A	G	G	E	R			
T	A	T	T	E	R	S	P	A	R	K	S			
C	X	E	A	C	R									

FAST FIVE

T	I	N	T	S
S	H	E	E	T
A	S	H	E	S
L	I	S	L	E
C	R	A	F	T

RIDDLER
They are all U.S. baseball teams

QUICK

S	U	R	F	A	C	E	S		U					
K	T		T	A		G		N						
D	E	P	U	T	I	S	E		A	V	I	D		
	E		O		M		T		R		P			
D	R	A	V	I	D		A	X	I	O	M	S		
	E		A	L	B				I					
G	L	I	D	E		C	E	L	L	S				
	A			S	A	G		U						
T	R	U	S	T	Y		N	I	C	K	E	L		
	E		L		O		I		S					
O	V	A	L		N	O	B	L	E	M	A	N		
	E		O		B		R		K					
S	U	R	F	A	C	E	S		U					

MENSA PUZZLE
D: so that the four arrows are pointing North, South, East, West and opposite pointers are the same type, ie finger or arrow

QUOTE UNCODE
You must be in tune with the times and prepared to break with tradition.

SUDOKU

2	4	8	3	7	5	9	6	1
5	9	6	2	4	1	8	3	7
3	7	1	9	8	6	5	2	4
8	3	7	1	5	4	6	9	2
6	5	2	8	9	7	1	4	3
9	1	4	6	2	3	7	8	5
4	6	9	5	1	2	3	7	8
7	8	5	4	3	9	2	1	6
1	2	3	7	6	8	4	5	9

ALPHA TRIANGLE
A, Al, Air, Iran, Infra, Unfair, Ruffian.

GO FIGURE
Easy
2 + 7 − 5 + 6 = 10
Medium
3 x 7 x 1 − 8 = 13
Hard
2 + 8 + 4 − 6 = 8

LOOP

KAKURO

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